

November 15, 2010

Mr. Phil Isenberg
Chair, Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth St. Suite 1500
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: November 18th meeting – Notice of Preparation for EIR – Inclusion of EWC Report, California Water Solutions NOW as an alternative.

Via Email – November 16, 2010

Dear Mr. Isenberg and Council Members:

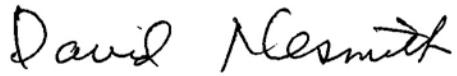
The California Environmental Water Caucus and our 27 member groups from around the state are appreciative of the attention to alternatives for California water policy given by the council. In our power point presentation on September 24, 2010, we provided information that is important to reaching a balanced policy for Delta ecosystem restoration, less reliance on the Delta for water, and a path forward for water system reliability in California. In that presentation we requested that the Council include our report as an alternative for evaluation in the process of making a final Delta Plan. We are now formally requesting that our report, California Water Solutions NOW, be put forward as an alternative in the EIR process. We understand that on November 18, 2010, the Council will be meeting to determine what to put into the Notice of Preparation. Please include the EWC report in that Notice.

Additionally, we want to thank the council staff for providing time on October 26, 2010, to discuss our request for a formal workgroup to further evaluate our report, and to develop our recommendations. Many thanks go to Mr. Joe Grindstaff and staff who spent time better understanding why we need these workshops, and how they can benefit the Council and their decisions. It is our understanding that there will be a series of workshops around the scoping meetings in early 2011 in which we can further develop our suggestions for inclusion in the final Delta Plan. We appreciate the willingness of the Council to seriously evaluate non-traditional solutions to one of California's most daunting problems – Ecosystem balance and water reliability. We are confident we can help find durable solutions to these questions.

One additional issue has come to light over the past week that we feel is critically important. It is the letter from NGO's participating in the BDCP process sent to Lester Snow, Secretary of Natural Resources on November 8, 2010 (attached). In that letter seven of California's most important organizations expressed several reasons why they feel the BDCP is not moving in the direction of balance between the environment and water diversions. They point out on page 2 the inconsistency with SB7X1, and that the BDCP is not meeting the state Legislature's mandates. There are a number of others issues these groups feel are not being addressed appropriately, all of which are critically important. Most troubling to us is the long list of communications they have made over the past 4 years that have essentially gone un-addressed. We feel strongly this shows why the BDCP is floundering today, and is now viewed as too one sided in its scope. Our hope is that the Delta Stewardship Council will not fall into the problems now confronting the BDCP. It is critical to find balance, and the EWC report essentially deals with all of the issues not being addressed by BDCP, and can meet the mandates of SB7X1, as the Legislature so clearly stated.

We look forward to working with the Council to develop solutions that are sustainable and durable, and will meet your legislative mandates and recover the Delta ecosystem. Inclusion of our report in the EIR process as an alternative is just the beginning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Nesmith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Nesmith
EWC Coordinator

Copies: Distribution List

November 15, 2010

Mr. Lester Snow, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Letter from NGO groups, November 8, 2010 – State's Sept. 9 BDCP Discussion Document

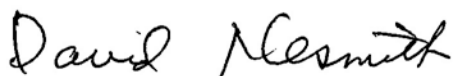
Dear Secretary Snow:

I am writing on behalf of the California Environmental Water Caucus and our 27 member organizations around the state. We agree with the letter from 7 of California's most important environmental organizations, some of which are members of our Caucus. For many months we have watched the BDCP from a distance, and felt that it was not moving in the direction of a balanced policy on ecosystem recovery in the Delta and state water policy. We agree with these groups that the BDCP is not meeting the state law, as articulated in SB7X1, and that if a successful outcome is anticipated it must do so. As you know, one of the major requirements in the law is reduced reliance on the Delta, and though this phrase may be misrepresented at times, it means to us less water extraction from the Delta. We also do not think the BDCP has adequately addressed the California State Water Resources Control Board's flow criteria for the Delta, and feel strongly that there are several conflicts with best available science. Certainly, an HCP/NCCP is a great goal, but it is a HABITAT plan, not a water supply plan. Currently, we agree with these groups that the BDCP, as currently designed, puts water supply first, and leaves habitat restoration goals less well defined.

We have published a report, *California Water Solutions Now*, that provides an alternative to many of the troubling shortfalls of BDCP. In it are several strategies that should be part of BDCP, or at least be evaluated appropriately as a means of reducing reliance on the Delta, and meeting the state legislative requirement of reduced reliance on the Delta. Here is a link that you can use to access this report: <http://ewccalifornia.org/home/index.php>. There are many good suggestions in this report quoting the state's own bulletin 160, California Water Plan up-date, along with information from many other credible sources on water conservation, efficiency, reclamation, and land retirement. There are other options for water supply reliability than dams, diversions, pumps and canals. We feel California and its 37 million people have stretched the current system beyond a breaking point, and doing more of the same (diversions, pumps, dams, etc.) is inappropriate if we want to maintain a viable ecosystem in the California central Delta, its tributaries and the San Francisco Bay estuary.

In closing, we strongly support the content of the letter sent you on November 8, 2010 by the seven organizations working in BDCP. It is time for a substantive change.

Sincerely,



David Nesmith
EWC Coordinator
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